

Environmental Briefing Guidelines

Boat and dive briefings are a great opportunity to tell your guests about Green Fins and how you and your company expect people to behave while diving with you. Research shows that environmental briefings work incredibly well to reduce diver damage. By providing clear and interesting direction, you and your guests can become Green Fins champions! The checklist below outlines environmental content to be included in your standard dive and boat briefings on every tour.

Please use the Green Fins icons and Guidelines to the Code of Conduct for further support.

Boat Briefing

✓ Marine toilet



Anything you flush down the toilet will enter the ocean if your boat does not have a holding tank. If this is the case, ask your guests to use the trash can for tissue and to avoid using it over dive sites.

✓ No littering



Marine litter can kill turtles, birds and coral. Show guests how to safely dispose of waste while on board, including food waste, so they do not become part of the problem.

✓ Use ashtrays



Cigarette butts are the most commonly found marine litter item and can poison marine life. Provide your guests with ashtrays for proper disposal and point them out during your briefing.

✓ No fish feeding



Any food thrown overboard attracts fish away from their natural food source. This damages the food chain and leads to unattractive, algae-covered coral reefs. You and your guests can protect the reef by not fish feeding.

Lead by example and don't be afraid to help your guests be better divers.

Dive Briefing

✓ No touching



Touching the reef can damage it and spread disease. Harassing and touching marine life can remove them from their homes leaving them vulnerable to predation. Sticks and reef hooks should only be used on rock, NOT coral. Teach your guests the difference and encourage good buoyancy.

✓ Keep away from the reef



Encouraging guests to maintain good buoyancy reduces the damage caused by fins and fin wash. By not getting too close to the reef, animals feel safer, allowing you to enjoy more natural behaviour.

✓ No gloves



In some dive sites it's illegal to use gloves while diving. By providing protection, they encourage people to touch the reef and marine life. In most cases, they won't remove the risk of injury from dangerous marine life.

✓ Secure all equipment



Dangling equipment may break coral without divers even realising. Protect the coral and your equipment by using BCD clips to secure gauges and octopus.

✓ No collecting



If it is found underwater, it should stay underwater. Collecting marine life, dead or alive, should be discouraged because it is often illegal and can leave your favourite species homeless.

✓ Be a responsible photographer



Research shows that photographers damage the reef more than any other diver. Help them to maintain neutral buoyancy throughout the dive and correct them if necessary. Encourage minimal flash photography as 'over-flashing' can harm many species.